

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 7 and 9 have been further amended and reformatted to simplify the readability of these claims while maintaining substantive consistency with original claims 2, 4, 7 and 9.¹ Subsequent to the filing of the Preliminary Amendment on September 8, 2003, a further detailed comparison of the amended claims with original claims 2, 4, 7 and 9 revealed that further fine tuning of the parenthetical and indented paragraph formatting was desirable for consistency with the intended meaning of the original claims, while enhancing the readability of the claims by reducing the multiple levels of parentheticals used in the original claims. Except for the substantive amendment to the definition of X in the September 8, 2003 Preliminary Amendment, the scope of claims 2, 4, 7 and 9 is intended and believed to be identical to the intended scope of original claims 2, 4, 7 and 9.

Following entry of this amendment, claims 2 and 4-15 remain pending in this application.

It is respectfully requested that the first Action on the merits be made with respect to the above claims as presented in this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment, and after consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement, form PTO-1449 and copy of the cited documents provided with the September 8, 2003 filings herein.

¹ Except, of course, that claim 2 was substantively amended in the September 8, 2003 Preliminary Amendment with respect to the definition of X to bring it within the scope of the elected invention.

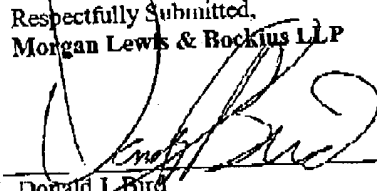
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EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Director is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully Submitted,
Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP

Date: January 29, 2004
Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP
Customer No. 09629
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Tel. No.: 202-739 3000
DJB:

By:


Donald J. Bird
Registration No. 25,323
Tel. No.: (202) 739-5320
Fax No.: (202) 739-3001

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